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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018 azcentral.com PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Pair touched by tragedy see gun control as 'public-health issue'

Reps. Daniel Hernandez (left) and Randy Friese have become two of the Legislature's biggest advocates for tougher gun regulations. Both say their lives were changed by the Jan. 8, 2011, mass shooting near Tucson. ROB SCHUMACHER/THE REPUBLIC

2011 Tucson shooting still drives gun debate

Dustin Gardiner
Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

For state Reps. Daniel Hernandez and Randy Friese — the Arizona Legislature's two most vocal proponents of tougher gun laws — the trajectory of their political careers were shaped on a single day: Jan. 8, 2011.

On that day, Hernandez rushed to the side of Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords after she was shot in the head outside a Tucson-area supermarket. Hernandez, then a 20-year-old intern in her office, held his hand over Giffords' wound to slow the bleeding.

Friese, a trauma surgeon, tried unsuccessfully to save the life of 9-year-old Christina-Taylor Green before readying Giffords for the first surgery that would ultimately save hers.

Seven years later, the events of the mass shooting — a gunman killed 6 people and wounded 13 others, including Giffords — still weigh on Hernandez and Friese as they continue a years-long fight for tougher gun regulations at the Arizona Capitol.

The Legislature began its 2018 session on the anniversary of the Jan. 8 shooting, and the duo again has proposed a slate of gun-related bills, from background checks to a ban on "bump stock" devices.

But their efforts are unlikely to succeed at the Capitol, where the Republican majority regularly pushes to loosen firearm restrictions, not tighten them. Still, Hernandez and Friese, both Democrats from Tucson, said they plan to keep working for "common sense" laws.

"I personally believe that there is an appetite in Arizona, in the electorate, for us to discuss this problem," Friese said. "We need to look at this as a public health issue. I believe this is an epidemic."

Hernandez, who drew national praise for his actions during the 2011 shooting and later ran for office, said they're taking a different approach this year.

They hope to find common ground with Republicans on bump stocks, devices that allow semiautomatic rifles to

See GUNS, Page 19A

Jeff Flake clarifies his Trump criticism

Senator denies likening president to Joseph Stalin

Dan Nowicki
Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

Sen. Jeff Flake's plans to give a speech criticizing President Donald Trump for attacking the media as the "enemy of the people" — a term used by brutal Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin — has generated new wave of attacks from the American right.

In a Monday afternoon appearance on CNN International, Flake, R-Ariz., backed off any suggestion that he was comparing Trump to Stalin, who was notorious for having political enemies killed or imprisoned in forced labor camps.

"I am in no way comparing President Trump to Joseph Stalin," Flake told host Christiane Amanpour. "Joseph Stalin was a killer. Our president is not. But it just puzzles me as to why you'd use a phrase that is so loaded and that has such deeper meaning, the press being the enemy of the people."

Flake said that if Trump really were like Stalin "people like me would be in Gitmo (Guantanamo Bay) or worse." But the president's attacks on the press nonetheless have implications

See FLAKE, Page 13A

93-year-old is new leader of Mormons

Brady Mccombs
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY – The Mormon church appointed a 93-year-old former heart surgeon Tuesday as its new president, following a long-standing succession plan that aims to keep the faith on course with a minimum of upheaval.

Russell M. Nelson

Russell M. Nelson's remarks about LGBT issues and the role of women in the faith to reporters after he was officially chosen to become the 17th president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints reaffirmed an expectation that he will make few changes as he upholds traditional church teachings.

Speaking about his approach to LGBT issues, Nelson said he under-

See NELSON, Page 14A

Administration appeals DACA ruling

Judge had blocked Trump move to end protections

Sudhin Thanawala
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO – The Trump administration on Tuesday appealed a judge's ruling temporarily blocking its decision to end protections for hundreds of thousands of young immigrants and announced plans to seek a U.S. Supreme Court review even before an appeals court issues a decision.

Attorneys for the U.S. Department of Justice said in a court filing that they were appealing the Jan. 9 ruling by a federal judge preventing President Donald Trump from ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

The appeal was filed with the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

In a separate news release, the agency said it planned to file documents seeking a review by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions said in a statement that it defied "law and common sense" for a single federal judge to decide the DACA issue.

U.S. District Judge William Alsup in his Jan. 9 ruling said lawyers in favor of DACA clearly demonstrated that the

See APPEAL, Page 17A

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT SPORTS, 1C

It's been a long, amazing trip from Suffolk, Va., to Tempe for ASU's Shannon Evans, shown here going to the basket in December. SEAN LOGAN/THE REPUBLIC

USA TODAY

Wicked winter hampers eastern half of country

Schools were closed and travel was disrupted Tuesday as a bitterly cold storm dumped snow and ice across the South before heading northward to take aim on the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast. **1B**

Obituaries have moved

To better accommodate our new design, we've moved obituaries out of the main news section. You will find them inside sports in **Section C.**

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